

mild cases of typhoid can easily exist unrecognized, until the polluted milk has carried its deadly errand into our homes, and has rendered desolate our hearts—not because the dairyman has been a criminal, but because the medical profession has committed a sin of omission! The county medical societies have a duty to perform. Will they still remain inactive in the face of these preventable epidemics?

The tragedy of Cornell, due to a polluted water supply, followed so closely by a similar, though fortunately less deadly epidemic of typhoid fever at Stanford University, should attract immediate and careful study at the hands of students of preventive medicine. For long it has been known that where many men from all sections are gathered together—as in military camps—typhoid fever and other diseases are to be carefully looked for and guarded against, yet that similar precautions should be taken in connection with large gatherings at university centers, does not seem to have been recognized. Where so many lives are placed in danger it would seem as though no amount of care or expense should be too much to ask, that the health and the lives of these young men and women may be properly safeguarded.

The appointment of a Tuberculosis Committee by the State Medical Society at the Santa Barbara meeting was in keeping with the general scientific work of the session. This showed our State Society to be abreast with the times on this important subject. The tuberculosis question has always been of sufficient magnitude to demand the attention of medical societies; but never until recent times has its investigation seemed to promise any hope of relief. Today the world is astir. Public opinion is being educated to the fact that tuberculosis is a preventable and curable disease. Municipalities, states and nations are making the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis a matter of earnest consideration. That our State Medical Society did wisely in taking up this subject is patent from the fact that tuberculosis is very common in our midst. Not only have we a large proportion of native cases, but also a great army of imported cases who come here to receive the advantages of the far-famed climate which certain sections are reputed to possess. How to deal with tuberculosis in California is a subject in which every citizen of our State has a vital interest. It is the intention of this committee to investigate the subject as thoroughly as they can. They wish to obtain the number of cases of the disease in the State; to find out what proportion of these are native and what proportion im-

ported; what measures are being taken, either by private or by public initiative, to check its spread; also to find out whether or not the physicians are in favor of taking measures for checking the disease. We bespeak for the committee the earnest support of every physician of the State, that their report may be complete and valuable. This investigation entails a great deal of work upon the committee and their work can be very much facilitated by a prompt reply to the circular letter which they intend to send to the physicians of the State.

In at least one State the full value to the public and to the medical profession of thorough and careful organization is amply demonstrated. In Kentucky every medical office in the State is filled through the medium of the State and county medical societies.

THE POWER OF ORGANIZATION. No appointment to a State, county or municipal board of health, vaccinator, insurance examiner, etc., is made without consultation with and reference to the organized medical societies, and no man can receive such an appointment unless he is enrolled in the county society of the county in which he lives. Improper or unjust legislation can no longer even be introduced, for the tremendous strength of organized effort would at once strangle it. It is said, on the highest authority, that there is not a single advertising quack nor illegal practitioner in the State—a result due wholly to the complete organization of the profession and the persistent and insistent demands of the organization. A physician legally licensed to practice medicine in the State of Kentucky can have no recognized professional standing unless he be a member of his county and *ipso facto* his State society. It is quite time that this condition prevailed in every State, and we of California should see to it that no further delay occurs in furthering our complete organization and securing full control of all things medical within our State.

The spirit pervading the American Medical Association at the New Orleans meeting in May, was distinctly and pronouncedly a harmonious and very profound desire for organization and reorganization of the whole profession of the country. No one could have sat through the heat and the toil of the House of Delegates at this 54th annual meeting without being greatly impressed with this one underlying fact. The desire to end old wars and refrain from touching old and nearly healed wounds, was everywhere manifest and was most convincingly shown in the reports from 44 State Societies, showing a tremendous increase in membership. And it is right that this should

be, for the power for good of a united profession of medicine cannot be overestimated. Our own State Society has, within a year, quadrupled its membership; within the next year we should at least double our present membership.

For twenty-two years has been waged a foolish war among medical men, over the "Code of Ethics" of the American Medical Association. Almost every year has seen some attempt to modify that monstrous document, but with little or no result. The profession in New York has been split into two factions for years, and envy, hatred and malice have been allowed to grow and flourish there, about the silly questions of "Code" or "No Code." The New Orleans meeting of the Association saw the death and burial of this old "Code," and the ceremonies attendant were joyous. The general committee which had the matter in charge presented a beautifully innocuous document "of a purely advisory nature," in which is set forth the "principles of medical ethics approved by the American Medical Association." Now let New York and every other State in the Union go ahead with the good work of organization until every reputable practitioner of medicine is a member of his local, State and national association.

Once more the JOURNAL appeals to each and every member of the State Society for proper aid and assistance. We want to know and to publish the doings and the transactions of every County Medical Society in the State. But the Publication Committee is not ubiquitous; it can not attend all County Society meetings, nor can the editor distribute himself about the State for that purpose, much as he should like to do so. It therefore becomes the plain duty for each member of the Society to help by either sending such news to the JOURNAL himself, or see to it that someone in his County Society does forward the news desired. In this connection, Secretaries of County Societies particularly, and members generally, are requested to send in notices of the marriage of any member, and also a brief biography with the notice of the death of a member.

A better way should be devised than suspension of members who neglect to pay dues. Several secretaries of County Societies complain that their lists of members are growing less through this carelessness on the part of delinquents, for it stands to reason that societies cannot carry in full membership those who do not contribute toward the expenses. One

is apt to say that if people won't pay up they should get out; but the truth is that in almost every instance of delinquency it happens more through forgetfulness and procrastination than through any intention to shirk payment. Dropping from county societies carries with it dropping from the State Society and deprives the offender of the publications of the Society. If the JOURNAL is not being received regularly, or if you fail to get a copy of the Register when it comes out, it might be a good idea to have a little interview with the secretary of your County Society concerning your back dues. That matter being satisfactorily arranged, it will be found that the receipt of the Society's publications will be resumed with magical promptness.

The Santa Barbara meeting of the State Society was noteworthy for many reasons and in many ways. It was the first meeting under the new plan, whereby all the business of the Society is transacted by a house of delegates composed of members duly elected by the affiliated county societies, and it demonstrated the wisdom of this plan beyond all question. Every county society was represented in the house of delegates, and as the vote of the house on almost every measure was practically, if not actually, unanimous, the fact is manifest that the measures adopted are approved, not by a group of men representing a small portion of the State, but by the physicians of every part of the State. The keen interest taken in the affairs of the Society by each and every delegate, is fairly strong evidence of the fact that the State Society is actually representative of the profession of the whole State, and that its interests are taken to heart by every County Society. No one need have the slightest anxiety as to the future of the State Society, now that it is in the actual control of the profession of the whole State.

An exceedingly gratifying feature of the last meeting of the State Society was the high tone of so very many of the papers read and the ensuing discussions. Not within the last ten years at least, have the discussions been so extensive or so general, and probably few if any members in attendance left Santa Barbara without feeling a certain amount of personal gain; without realizing that he had learned enough of other men's ideas or view-points to make the trip well worth his while. The removal of all questions of business or politics from the general meetings greatly helped this feature of the meeting and was certainly regarded as a blessed relief by very many. That the Society may be very large and still lose nothing

TROUBLE FOR DELINQUENTS.

STATE SOCIETY'S SCIENTIFIC WORK.

CODE OF ETHICS NOW INOCUOUS.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY BODIES.